

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Claims 1, 20, 25, 34, 80, 87-88, 93, 100, 107, and 135 are amended. Claim 19 is canceled.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for managing the transmission of distributable content, comprising:

a collection engine, the collection engine configured to receive distributable content from at least one content provider based on a predetermined schedule and a usage demand for the distributable content via a first network and to process subscriber requests for the distributable content, wherein the distributable content is configured to expire after a predetermined time and is transmitted to the collection engine from the at least one content provider after the collection engine receives a minimum number of subscriber requests for the distributable content;

content storage, the content storage communicating with the collection engine to store the distributable content and to update the distributable content at specified intervals; and

the collection engine is configured to receive the subscriber requests from viewing devices over a second network connecting a subscriber group having a plurality of subscribers, to transmit the requested content over the second network to one or more viewing devices, and to generate bills for transmission over the first network but not for transmission over the second network for each subscriber

in the subscriber group, wherein the viewing devices comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

2. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the first network comprises a communication link via the Internet.

3. (Original) A system according to claim 2, wherein the communication link comprises a backbone link.

4. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

5. (Original) A system according to claim 4, wherein the second network comprises a digital subscriber line connection.

6. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a cable head end.

7. (Original) A system according to claim 6, wherein the second network comprises a cable modem connection.

8. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a wireless interface.

9. (Original) A system according to claim 8, wherein the second network comprises at least one of an 802.11a, an 802.11b, and an 802.11g interface.

10. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a central telephone office.

11. (Original) A system according to claim 10, wherein the second network comprises a dial up modem connection.

12. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises an optical head end.

13. (Original) A system according to claim 12, wherein the second network comprises a fiber optic connection.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the collection engine comprises a server.

15. (Original) A system according to claim 14, wherein the second network comprises at least one of a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the content storage comprises a database.

17-19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[19]] 1, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage.

21. (Original) A system according to claim 20, wherein the distributable content is stored in the local storage.

22. (Canceled).

23. (Original) A system according to claim 21, wherein reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage is selectively controlled.

24. (Original) A system according to claim 23, wherein the selective control of the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage comprises digital rights management.

25. (Currently Amended))A system according to claim [[18]] 1, wherein the subscriber activates the viewing of the distributable content at the viewing device via a key mechanism.

26. (Original) A system according to claim 25, wherein the key mechanism comprises authentication via the first network.

27. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

28. (Original) A system according to claim 27, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

29. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the subscriber subscribes to the at least one content provider.

30. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content on a pay-per-use basis.

31. (Original) A system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one content provider comprises more than one content provider.

32-33. (Canceled).

34. (Currently Amended) A method for managing the transmission of distributable content, comprising:

receiving subscriber requests from subscribers in a subscriber group;

receiving distributable content from at least one content provider via a first network based on the subscriber requests, wherein the distributable content comprises a subset of the distributable content corresponding to requests from subscribers in the subscriber group and the distributable content is received from the at least one content provider on a usage demand basis after a minimum number of different subscribers in the subscriber group request the distributable content and an appropriate fee is applied by the content provider for each request;
and

storing the distributable content in content storage remote from a viewing device of each subscriber in the subscriber group;

transmitting to the viewing device via a second network the distributable content, wherein the distributable content is configured to expire after a predetermined time, from the content storage to [[a]] the viewing device

associated with a subscriber that requested to receive ~~receives~~ the distributable content at scheduled times on a pay-per-use basis.

35. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the first network comprises a communication link via the Internet.

36. (Original) A method according to claim 35, wherein the communication link comprises a backbone link.

37. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a digital subscriber line access multiplexer.

38. (Original) A method according to claim 37, wherein the second network comprises a digital subscriber line connection.

39. (Original) A method according to claim 38, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a cable head end.

40. (Original) A method according to claim 39, wherein the second network comprises a cable modem connection.

41. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a wireless interface station.

42. (Original) A method according to claim 41, wherein the second network comprises at least one of an 802.1 la, an 802.1 lb, and an 802.1 lg interface.

43. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a central telephone office.

44. (Original) A method according to claim 43, wherein the second network comprises a dial up modem connection.

45. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in an optical head end.

46. (Original) A method according to claim 45, wherein the second network comprises a fiber optic connection.

47. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content comprises a step of receiving the distributable content in a server.

48. (Original) A method according to claim 45, wherein the second network comprises at least one of a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

49. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the content storage comprises a database.

50-51. (Canceled).

52. (Original) A method according to claim 51, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

53. (Original) A method according to claim 51, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage.

54. (Original) A method according to claim 53, further comprising a step of storing the distributable content on the local storage.

55. (Canceled).

56. (Original) A method according to claim 54, further comprising a step of selectively controlling reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage.

57. (Original) A method according to claim 56, wherein the step of selectively controlling the reproduction of the distributable content comprises a step of executing a digital rights management module.

58. (Original) A method according to claim 51, further comprising a step of activating the viewing of the distributable content at the viewing device via a key mechanism.

59. (Original) A method according to claim 58, wherein the key mechanism comprises authentication via the first network.

60. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

61. (Original) A method according to claim 60, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

62. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the subscriber of the distributable content subscribes to the at least one content provider.

63. (Canceled).

64. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the at least one content provider comprises more than one content provider.

65. (Original) A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of receiving the distributable content from the at least one content provider comprises a step of receiving the distributable content from the at least one content provider based on a predetermined schedule.

66. (Canceled).

67-79. (Canceled).

80. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium being readable by a computer to execute a method of managing the transmission of distributable content, the method comprising:

receiving subscriber requests from subscribers in a subscriber group;

84. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 80, wherein the content storage comprises a database.

85-86. (Canceled).

87. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim [[86]] 80, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

88. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium according to claim [[86]] 80, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage.

89. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 88, wherein the method further comprises a step of storing the distributable content in the local storage.

90. (Canceled).

91. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 80, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

92. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 91, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

93. (Currently Amended) A system for receiving a transmission of distributable content, comprising:

a viewing device having a graphical user interface that generates requests to receive distributable content, including videos, audio, and software, from a remote collection engine having a content storage device storing distributable content received from at least one content provider, wherein the viewing device receives distributable content that is configured to expire after a predetermined number of uses;

a local storage associated with the viewing device to store the distributable content, the viewing device is configured to ~~presents~~ present a list of distributable content that is dynamically updated to include popular distributable content based on fees associated with the distributable content stored in the content storage as applied by the content provider.

94. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 93, wherein an interface for the content storage comprises at least one of a digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a cable head end, a wireless interface, a central telephone office, a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

95. (Original) A system according to claim 93, wherein the user interface is configured to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content at selected times.

96. (Original) A system according to claim 93, wherein the user interface is configured to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content as a background task.

97. (Original) A system according to claim 93, wherein the user interface comprises a viewing authorization module.

98. (Original) A system according to claim 97, wherein the viewing authorization module comprises a key authorization mechanism.

99. (Canceled).

100. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim [[99]] 93, wherein reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage is selectively controlled.

101. (Original) A system according to claim 100, wherein the selective control of the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage comprises digital rights management.

102. (Original) A system according to claim 93, wherein the subscriber subscribes to the at least one content provider.

103. (Canceled).

104. (Original) A system according to claim 93, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

105. (Original) A system according to claim 104, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

106. (Original) A system according to claim 93, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

107. (Currently Amended) A method for managing the receipt of distributable content, comprising:

connecting to a network ~~communicating with~~ coupled to a content storage, the content storage storing distributable content received from at least one content provider, wherein the distributable content is configured to expire after a predetermined time; and

presenting a user interface to permit a subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content, wherein the user interface provides a list of distributable content that is dynamically updated to include popular distributable content based on fees associated with the popular distributable content stored on the content storage as applied by the content provider.

108. (Original) A method according to claim 107, wherein the step of connecting to a network comprises connecting to at least one of a digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a cable head end, a wireless interface, a central telephone office, a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

109. (Original) A method according to claim 107, wherein the step of presenting a user interface comprises a step of presenting selectable options to permit the subscriber to receive the distributable content at selected times.

110. (Original) A method according to claim 107, wherein the step of presenting a user interface comprises a step of presenting selectable options to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content as a background task.

111-112. (Canceled).

113. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 107, further comprising the step of receiving popular distributable content selected by the subscriber at a viewing device, wherein the viewing device comprises local storage to store the distributable content.

114. (Original) A method according to claim 113, further comprising a step of selectively controlling the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage.

115. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 114, wherein the step of selectively controlling the reproduction of the distributable content stored in the local storage comprises executing a digital rights management module.

116. (Original) A method according to claim 107, wherein the subscriber subscribes to the at least one content provider.

117. (Original) A method according to claim 107, wherein the subscriber selectively receives the distributable content on a pay-per-use basis.

118. (Original) A method according to claim 107, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

119. (Original) A method according to claim 118, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

120. (Original) A method according to claim 107, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

121-134. (Canceled).

135. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium, the computer readable medium being readable by a computer to execute a method for managing the receipt of distributable content, the method comprising:

connecting to a remote network ~~communicating with~~ content storage, the content storage storing distributable content received from at least one content provider for transmission to a subscriber in a group of subscribers, wherein the distributable content is configured to expire after a predetermined number of uses;

presenting a user interface to permit the subscriber to selectively receive the distributable content, wherein the user interface provides a list of distributable content that is dynamically updated to include popular distributable content based on fees generated by the content provider of the popular distributable content, presents selectable options to permit the subscriber to choose to receive the popular distributable content at selected times on a pay-per-uses basis, presents selectable options to permit the subscriber to choose to receive the popular distributable content as a background task, and presents a security dialog to

receive a key to authorize the subscriber to view the popular distributable content;
and

generating an output of the distributable content to view on a viewing device having a locale storage to store the popular distributable content, wherein reproduction of the popular distributable content stored in local storage is controlled by a digital rights module.

136. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the step of connecting to a network comprises connecting to at least one of a digital subscriber line access multiplexer, a cable head end, a wireless interface, a central telephone office, a local area network, a wide area network, and a metropolitan area network.

137-143. (Canceled).

144. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the subscriber subscribes to the at least one content provider.

145. (Canceled).

146. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the distributable content comprises digitally encoded content.

147. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 146, wherein the digitally encoded content comprises at least one of digitally encoded video, digitally encoded graphics, digitally encoded audio, and computer software.

148. (Original) A computer readable medium according to claim 135, wherein the viewing device comprises at least one of a computer, a television, and a programmable video recording device.

149-161. (Canceled).